

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:TEDEAL

APPROVED BY EUR:AA HARTMAN

EUR/EE:CBROWN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: POLISH PROTEST OVER USG PARTICIPATION IN POLONIA
CONFERENCE

1. ON NOVEMBER 6 AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN ON INSTRUCTIONS TO PROTEST USG PARTICIPATION IN THE POLONIA CONFERENCE OF THE "FREE WORLD", WHICH WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON FROM NOVEMBER 7-9. TRAMPCZYNSKI SAID THAT THE GOP HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE MEETING WAS TO IMPEDE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF U.S./POLISH RELATIONS. IN THAT REGARD, HE NOTED THAT THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON, WHICH WAS NOT A POLONIA CENTER. TRAMPCZYNSKI AVERRED THAT BY HOLDING THIS CONFERENCE THE SPONSORS SHOWED THEIR INTENT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE POLISH STATE, A MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE. DOCUMENTS PREPARED IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE WERE HOSTILE IN TONE TOWARDS POLAND AND THE USSR. THE POLISH GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THE USG WOULD DO NOTHING TO LEND SUPPORT TO THIS UNDERTAKING.

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2. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT THE POLONIA GROUPS IN THE U.S. HAD IN RECENT YEARS ADOPTED A MORE MODERATE APPROACH TOWARDS THE PRESENT POLISH GOVERNMENT. WE HAD BEGUN A DIALOGUE WITH THEM PRIOR TO GIEREK'S VISIT IN 1974, AND THIS IS SOMETHING WE WISH TO CONTINUE. WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT POLISH-AMERICANS BE AWARE OF OUR VIEWS ON EAST-WEST MATTERS. ACCORDINGLY, EUR/EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS WOULD ADDRESS THE DELEGATES AT A WORKING LUNCHEON. HARTMAN SAID HE DISAGREED WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT THE USG SHOULD DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE. IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE OVER THE YEARS THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE NO REAL QUARREL WITH THE DIRECTIONS OF OUR POLICY. OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE EXTREMISTS IN THE POLISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY AS ELSEWHERE IN THE SOCIETY. NONETHELESS, THEY WERE IN THE MINORITY. IF WE REFUSED AN INVITATION TO SPEAK AT THE CONFERENCE, WE WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF MINORITY ELEMENTS WHO COULD CHARGE THAT USG IS AFRAID TO DEFEND ITS POLICIES BEFORE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE NOT TO PRESENT OUR VIEWPOINT. THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT OUR PARTICIPATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ENDORSE THE CONFERENCE OR ANY OF THE VIEWS PRESENTED THERE.

3. TRAMPCZYNSKI SEEMED SATISFIED WITH THIS EXPLANATION AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT OUR COMMENTS TO WARSAW. NONETHELESS, HE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE CONFERENCE MIGHT HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON U.S./POLISH RELATIONS.

4. FYI. WE HAVE GIVEN THE POLISH EMBASSY A COPY OF ANDREWS' PREPARED STATEMENT. THE SPEECH BREAKS NO NEW GROUND BUT MERELY REITERATES WELL KNOWN U.S. POSITIONS ON DETENTE, THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE, AND BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE ARE POUCHING A COPY TO THE POST. END FYI.
KISSINGER

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